

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 5-13 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A distribution system connected to clients through communication circuits, comprising:

a parent server and child servers, wherein:

the parent server comprises:

a receiving unit receiving an area identification representing a current geographical position of one of the clients and identification information of contents, distribution of which is requested by the one of the clients, and

a selecting unit selecting one of the child servers that holds the contents, distribution of which is requested, and which child server is closest to the one of the clients that originates the distribution request, using the received area identification and identification information, and notifying the one of the clients that originates the distribution request of logical position information of the selected one of the child servers, and

each child server comprises:

a distributing unit distributing the contents, distribution of which is requested by the one of the clients,

wherein the selecting unit automatically reselects one of the child servers upon the current geographical position of the one of the clients changing, and

wherein the current geographical position is obtained from a Global Positioning System.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein:

the parent server further comprises an ascertaining unit ascertaining a presence or an absence of the distribution request or a frequency of distribution requests for the contents from the one of the clients situated in an area for which the one of the child servers is responsible; and

the child server further comprises an acquiring unit acquiring and copying from the parent

server the contents that are not held by the one of the child servers, on a basis of the ascertained presence or the absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The distribution system according to claim 2, wherein said child server further comprises:

an ascertaining unit ascertaining the presence or the absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests for the contents from the one of the clients situated in the area for which the one of the child servers is responsible, and

a deleting unit deleting from the one of the child servers the contents which are held by the one of the child servers on the basis of the ascertained presence or absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The distribution system according to claim 2, wherein said child server further comprises:

a deleting unit deleting from the one of the child servers the contents which are held by the one of the child servers on the basis of the presence or absence of the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests ascertained by the parent server.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A distribution system connected to clients through communication circuits, comprising:

a parent server and child servers, wherein:

the parent server comprises:

an ascertaining unit ascertaining a frequency of distribution requests for contents from one of the clients situated in an area for which the one of the child servers is responsible; and

each child server comprises:

an acquiring unit acquiring and copying from the parent server the contents that are not held by the one of the child servers,

and wherein a current geographical position of the one of the clients is obtained from a Global Positioning System.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution system according to claim 5, wherein the child server further comprises:

an ascertaining unit ascertaining the frequency of distribution requests for the contents from the one of the clients situated in the area for which the one of the child servers is responsible; and

a deleting unit deleting from the one of the child servers the contents, which are held by the one of the child servers, ~~on the basis of~~ upon the ascertained frequency of distribution requests frequency being less than a previously set threshold value.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution system according to claim 5, wherein the child server further comprises:

a deleting unit deleting from the one of the child servers the contents which are held by the one of the child servers ~~on the basis of~~ upon the ascertained frequency of distribution requests frequency being less than a previously set threshold value.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product incorporated on a computer-readable storage medium for storing computer readable program code embodied therein that operates on a parent server in a distribution system having the parent server and a plurality of child servers and connected with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, the operations of the computer program product comprising:

selecting one of the child servers that holds the contents, distribution of which is requested and that is closest to one of the clients that made the distribution request on a basis of an area identification representing a current geographical position of the one of the clients that makes the distribution request for the contents and identification information of the contents, the distribution of which is requested by the one of the clients; and

communicating logical position information of the selected one of the child servers to the one of the clients that makes the distribution request; and

automatically reselecting one of the child servers upon the current geographical position of the one of the clients changing,

wherein the current geographical position of the one of the clients is obtained from a Global Positioning System.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product incorporated on a computer-readable storage medium for storing computer readable program code embodied therein that operates on a parent server in a distribution system having the parent server and a

plurality of child servers, and connected with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that the contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, the operations of the computer program product comprising:

ascertaining a frequency of distribution requests of contents from clients situated within an area for which one of the child servers is responsible and wherein a geographical position of the clients is obtained from a Global Positioning System; and

giving the one of the child servers notification to prompt copying from the parent server of the contents that are not held by the child server, or deleting from the one of the child servers the contents that are held by the one of the child servers, on a basis of the frequency of distribution requests.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product incorporated on a computer-readable storage medium for storing computer readable program code embodied therein that operates on a child server in a distribution system having a parent server and a plurality of child servers and connected with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that the contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, the operations of the computer program product comprising:

a program code copying to one of the child servers from the parent server the contents that are not held by the one of the child servers, or deleting from the child server the contents that are held by the one of the child servers, on a basis of a frequency of distribution requests for the contents from the clients situated in an area for which one of the child servers is responsible, wherein a geographical position of the clients is obtained from a Global Positioning System.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of distributing contents to clients in a distribution system including a parent server and a plurality of child servers and connected with the plurality of clients through communication circuits, comprising:

receiving identification information by the parent server of the contents, distribution of which is requested and an area identification representing a current geographical position of one of the clients that makes the request for the distribution of the contents;

selecting by the parent server, on a basis of the received area identification of the one of the clients and contents identification information, one of the child servers which has the contents that is requested for distribution and that is closest to the one of the clients that makes the request for distribution, and notifying the one of the clients that makes the request for

distribution of logical position information of the selected one of the child servers; and
distributing the contents, distribution of which is requested by the selected one of the child servers, in response to the request of the one of the clients; and
automatically reselecting one of the child servers upon the current geographical position of the one of the clients changing,
wherein the current geographical position of the one of the clients is obtained from a Global Positioning System.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of distributing contents to clients in a distribution system including a parent server and a plurality of child servers and connected with the plurality of clients through communication circuits, comprising:

ascertaining a frequency of distribution requests, in respect of contents from clients situated in an area for which one of the child servers is responsible;
copying contents which are not held on the one of the child servers from the parent server to the one of the child servers, or deleting the contents from the one of the child servers, on a basis of the frequency of distribution requests; and
performing the distribution from the one of the child server servers in response to the distribution request for the contents held by the one of the child servers from the clients situated in the area for which the one of the child server servers is responsible,
wherein the current geographical position of the one of the clients is obtained from a Global Positioning System.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A distribution system connected to a plurality of clients through communication circuits, comprising:

a parent server and child servers, wherein:
the clients communicate to the parent server an area identification representing a current geographical position of one of the clients and identification information of contents, distribution of which is requested by the one of the clients,
the parent server selects, on a basis of the area identification of the one of the clients and the contents identification information that is communicated thereto, one of the child servers that holds the contents, distribution of which is requested and that is closest to the one of the clients that originates the distribution request, and communicates logical position information of the selected one of the child servers to the one of the clients originating the distribution request, and automatically reselects one of the child servers upon the current geographical position of the

one of the clients changing; and

the one of the clients that originates the distribution request receives the contents, distribution of which is requested from the selected one of the child servers, on the basis of the logical position information of the selected one of the child servers,

wherein the current geographical position of the one of the clients is obtained from a Global Positioning System.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The distribution system according to claim 13, wherein receipt performed by the one of the clients of the contents from the selected one of the child servers is conducted using a program downloaded to the one of the clients from the parent server when the request for the distribution of the contents is made.